

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, 5 mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, comprising:

10 a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit provided in said network,

15 means for registering a predetermined communication terminal so as to correspond to said issued common phone number by sending an identification name of the predetermined communication terminals of said plurality of communication terminals to said phone number management unit in correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

20 means for sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit and notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

25 means for leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

means for reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in said message management unit, and the message left on said bulletin board unit, in a case 5 where the message is left on the unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals.

2. The communication system according to claim 1, wherein each of said communication terminals has an 10 identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the 15 medium.

3. The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, 20 character information and image information, respectively.

4. A communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, 25 mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, comprising:
a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit provided in 30 said network;
means for registering, after being accessed by an

arbitrary one of said plurality of communication terminals using said issued common phone number and receiving a confirmation by said management terminal, the arbitrary one of said communication terminals in

5 correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

means for sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals

10 when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said

15 message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

means for leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminals to said common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

20 means for reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in said message management unit, and the message left on said bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on said bulletin board unit,

25 from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals.

5. The communication system according to claim 4, wherein each of said communication terminals has an

30 identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number

assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

5

6. The communication system according to claim 4, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.

10

7. A communication method in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, wherein:

said network is provided with a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit, and

20

said method comprising the steps of:

registering a predetermined communication terminal so as to correspond to said issued common phone number by sending an identification name of the predetermined communication terminal of said plurality of communication terminals to said phone number management unit in correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly

sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit and notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second 5 mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to the common phone 10 number on said bulletin board unit; and

reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit or the message left on said bulletin board unit from an arbitrary one of the registered communication terminals.

15 8. The communication method according to claim 7, wherein each of said communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number 20 assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

25 9. The communication method according to claim 7, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.

30 10. A communication method in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network

including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, wherein:

5 said network is provided with a phone number
management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin
board unit, and

said method comprising the steps of:

registering, after being accessed by an arbitrary
10 one of said plurality of communication terminals using
said issued common phone number and receiving a
confirmation by said management terminal, the arbitrary
one of said communication terminals in correspondence
with said common phone number issued from said management
15 terminal;

sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly

20 sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected

25 leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in said message management unit and the message left on said bulletin board unit, in a case where the

message is left on said bulletin board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals.

5 11. The communication method according to claim 10, wherein each of said communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of said communication terminal and an
10 identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

12. The communication method according to claim 10,
15 wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.